

The Bethel Courier.

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 4

WINTER 1991

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OVER \$6000 RAISED FOR THE ENDOWMENT IN 1991

The 1991 Bethel Historical Society Endowment Committee (Howard Cole, Chairman, Barbara D. Brown, John Head, Alden Kennett, and Louise Lincoln) report that over \$6000 was raised for the endowment in 1991 from 306 individuals and businesses. Much appreciation is due all of the following for their generosity:

Barbara Adams, Lancaster, NH, in memory of Eva Bean; Olive Anderson, Newry, in memory of George Lehrian; Ernest & Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Mary Ann Ashcraft, Westminster, MD; Brad & Judy Barker, Bethel, in memory of John H. Currier; Jean Barker, Delray Beach, FL, in memory of Marjorie MacArthur Noll; Flora M. Barnes, Gorham, NH, in memory of Corinne Howe; Al & Lee Barth, Bethel; Otis J. Bartlett, Berlin, NH; Clark & Neda Bartlett, Bethel; G. S. Buck, Watertown, MA; John & Mary Beth Mayerlein, Bethel; John & Dulcie Bean, Toano, VA; Florence E. Beck, Bethel, in memory of John & Mary Deegan; Bessie Bennett, Peru, in memory of Lester Bennett; Randall H. Bennett, Bethel, in memory of Lester L. Bennett & Agnes H. Haines; Francine L. Bergman, Key Colony Beach, FL; Harriet L. Bensen, Long Branch, NJ; Hi & Mary Lou Berry, Bethel, in memory of Helen C. Berry & Eva T. Chapman; Kathryn M. Berry, Bucksport, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Charles G. Blake, Bethel; Kenneth & Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel; Lillian K. Bomhoff, Bangor, PA, in memory of Lilla T. Morgan & Ethel Bisbee; Garret & Melody Bonnema, Bethel; Timothy W. Brooks, Bethel; Nancy Bourgon, Bucksport, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Florine E. Bowden, Esmond, RI; Colleen F. Boyd, West Bethel, in memory of Duke Boyd; Dorothy F. Brinck, South Paris, in memory of Ernest W. Brinck; Julia B. Brown, Bethel, in memory of Alfred Brown; Guy P. & Nancy Butler, Millinocket, in memory of Kimball Ames; Nelson & Astrid Bourgon, Bucksport, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Beatrice B. Brown, Bethel, in memory of Marjorie C. Brooks; Donald W. & Mary S. Calderwood, Mesa, AZ, in memory of Hazel S. Maxson; Lee & Judith Carroll, Gorham, NH, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Alton Carroll; Elizabeth Mason Carter, West Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Central Maine Power Company, Bridgton; Champion International Corporation, Stamford, CT; Stephen C. & Lynda H. Chandler, Bethel; Albert S. Chapman, Harbert, MI; Daphne Chapman, Peabody, MA in memory of Philip Sheridan Chapman, Jr.; Franklin & Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Donald Christie, Gray; Donald M. Christie, Jr., Poughkeepsie, NY; Fillmore B.

(continued on page 2)



PLANS FOR THE COLE BLOCK, CA. 1890 BY GEORGE M. COOMBS OF LEWISTON. Courtesy of the Maine Historical Society.

CENTENARY OF THE COLE BLOCK

Editor's Note: The following remarks were made at the August meeting of the Society by Director Stanley R. Howe to commemorate the centenary of the Cole Block. They have been edited to conform to space considerations for this issue.

Most Maine towns in the late 19th century could boast of at least one large public building. Some towns had several. Bethel's most impressive building of this nature and era resulted from the efforts of two East Bethel men, Fred and Elmer Cole. They commissioned one of Maine's outstanding architects, George Coombs of Lewiston, to design a building that was originally to be brick and to be built in East Bethel (possibly with bricks from Edson Bartlett's brick yard there). We don't know why the Cole brothers changed the building's location to Bethel Hill, but we can speculate that they chose wood over brick simply for economic reasons. Much excitement was created in town by the construction of such a large structure, but soon after its completion the brothers were unable to pay the mortgage. The building then became the property of the holder of the mortgage, the Bethel Savings Bank, which owned the building until it was transferred to the Town of Bethel in 1982.

During that period, the Cole Block was long the center of commercial activity on Bethel Hill. The space where the

(continued on page 3)

& Shirley E. Clough, West Bethel; Howard W. & Virginia C. Cole, Bethel; Mary L. Cole, Gilead, in memory of Clifford Cole & Edith Quimby; Rupert D. & Eva N. Conroy, Auburn, in memory of Sylvia Conroy; Edith M. Coolidge, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Barbara Cooper, Windsor, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Roland & Barbara Crocker, Riverside, RI, in memory of Wallace & Lillas Coolidge; Stuart Crocker Architect, Bethel; Clayton & Lola Crockett, Bethel; Gwen Currier, Norway, in memory of John Currier; Vivian Daicy, Portland, in memory of D. D. Cross; Elsie E. Davis, Bethel; Richard & Rita Davis, Bethel; Freda M. Davis, West Bethel; Robert & Pauline Davis, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Dr. Thomas W. & Cathy L. Dawson, Laconia, NH; Louise S. Day, Biddeford, in memory of Emeline Heath; Joan P. Detter, Santa Fe, NM, in memory of Charles Willard Penley; David E. Diano, LaCanada, CA; Steve Dock, Greenville, NC; Ruth White Dobson, Contoocook, NH, in memory of Winfield Stanley White desc. of Hannah Mason-James Mills; Dana C. & Barbara Douglass, Bethel; Carole & Richard Duplessis, Bethel; Hugh & Mariann Durgin, North Waterford, in memory of John E. Grover; Diane Dyer, Westbrook; Rodney & Kathryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Donald B. Eddy, Haverford, PA, in memory of Edith Eaton Eddy; Robert H. & Jane Anne Elliott, Bucksport, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Lucretia B. Evans, Bronx, NH, in memory of Moses Mason Robinson; Richard & Natalie Fain, Bethel; Howard & Alice Fales, West Redding, CT, in memory of Agnes Howe Haines; Edna E. Fallon, Bethel; Norman & Barbara Ferguson, Hanover; Marian Penley Gates, Ann Arbor, MI, in memory of Francis H. Penley; Madeleine H. Gibbs, Bethel, in memory of Guy E. & Jerrold A. Gibbs; Arthur & Ruth Gilbert, West Bethel; Shirley & Marilyn Gilbert, West Bethel, in memory of Carroll and Mary Abbott; Dillon & Paula Gillies, Bethel; Robert W. Goodwin, Norway, in honor of Stanley Howe; Celia K. Gorman, Bethel; Lillian H. Grant, Gorham, in memory of Grace Bruns Hamblen; Marion & Robert Grindle, Bucksport, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Jean H. Grover, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Leo & Joanne W. Grunwald, Bucksport, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Richard & Frances Harding, Bryant Pond; Gerald & Linda Harrington, Bethel; Carolyn Ruth Wight Harrison, South Portland, in memory of Ruth Emery Verville; Colwyn & Judith Haskell, Bethel; Jack & Cathy Hart, Bangor, in memory of Agnes Haines; Charles S. Haselton, Bangor, in memory of Eugenia M. Haselton; Walter & Carolyn Hatch, Bethel; Olive Head, West Bethel, in memory of Clare Mason Smith; John & Fumiko Head, Bethel, in memory of Paul B. Head; Clayton & Helen Heath, Norway, in memory of Edla Tamlander; Pamela Heydon, Wilton, CT; Ethel J. Herr, Bethel; Richard & Jane Hosterman, West Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Allan & Diane Howe, Bethel, in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Rodney K. Howe; Greg & Sandra Howe, Severn, MD, in memory of Agnes Haines; Norman E. Howe, Major Retired US Army, West Hill, CA, in memory of Corinne F. Howe; Stanley Howe, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Harlan & Gertrude Hutchins, Bethel; Lee & Virginia Hutchins, Bethel, in memory of Gardner Smith, Mildred Jackson, Bethel, in memory of Jorgen & Annie Olson & Agnes Haines; Arlan & Eleanor

Jodrey, Bethel, in memory of Melvin Jodrey; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA, in memory of Albert L. Johnson; Robert & Helen Jones, Sabattus; Paul & Helen Judkins, Vero Beach, FL, in memory of Helen Berry; Royden & Alice Keddy, Gorham; Rebecca P. Kendall, Bethel; Earlon & Mary Keniston, Bethel, in honor of Maxine C. Brown; Alden Mabel Kennett, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Charles & Mary Keoskie, Bethel; W. H. Kieffer III, Marblehead, MA; John & Margaret King, Lakeland, FL, in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Howe; John R. King, Lakeland, FL, in honor of Marge; Herbert & Ruth Kittredge, Hanover, in memory of Laurier Kittredge; James D. Konkell, Portland; Helen L. Kraul, Portland, in memory of Karl O. Kraul; Aaron & Frances LaBree, Jr., Bucksport, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Dorothy J. Lake, Bucksport, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Frederick & Beatrice L. LaPlante, Damascus, MD; Harold M. & Edith Lawrence, Portland, in memory of Ellen Ardelia (Mason) Merrill; Rev. Clifford & Elizabeth Laws, Kittery Point, in memory of all Bethel people who made my ministry a happy one; Daisy M. LeClair, Bethel, in memory of Syll LeClair; E. Louise Lincoln, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; James H. Locke, Topeka, KS, in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Holt; Elizabeth S. Lord, Bethel; Arlene D. Lowell, Bethel, in memory of Lloyd B. Lowell; Frank & Bea Lowell, Newry, in memory of Danny & Iola Forbes; Philip Craig Mason, Gorham; Sidney & Helen Mason, Springvale; Welman C. & Natalie McFarland, Bucksport, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; E. Marna McGinniss, Bethel; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel, in memory of Agnes H. Haines; Edward L. & Mary A. Mills, Locke Mills; Marilyn R. Noyes Mollicone, Augusta, in memory of Agnes H. Haines; Patricia Mool, Denver, CO, in memory of Nathan Rice Twitchell; Helen A. Morton, Bethel; Herbert H. Morton, III, Andover, MA; Jean & Norm Ness, Orono; Hazel H. Newell, Locke Mills, in memory of Ella H. Cole & Ray & Winnie Hanscom; John & Yvonne Nowlin, Bethel, in memory of Laura B. Bennett; Robert O'Brien & Michaela Carey, Dorchester, MA; Joseph E. O'Donnell, Jr., Newtonville, MA; One Pie Canning Co., Bethel; Marvin & Tineka Ouwinga, Bethel, in memory of Rev. Menko Ouwinga; Gilman & Winifred Page, Frenchville, in memory of Sarah Bradbury; Earlon & Mary Paine, Bethel, in memory of Wallace Saunders; Marilyn A. Parker, Milford, CT, in memory of Guy Parker, Jr., Guy Parker, Sr., & Richard Bean; Roland & Norma Patterson, Bucksport, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Ernest & Betty Perkins, Bethel, in memory of James E. Perkins; Helen M. Philbrook, Augusta; Archibald & Persis Post, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Eunice & Harold Powell, Hanover, in memory of Kevin B. Powell; Betty R. Prescott, Bangor, in memory of Mrs. Evans Wilson (Gladys); Anthony & Eleanor Pugliese, Bethel; John Quinn, Dunstable, MA; Kenneth H. & Sarah B. Ramage, Bethel; Dick Rasor, Bethel, in memory of Chuck Kennedy; Beatrice R. Ritter, Torrington, CT; Sandy MacKay Robinson, Amsterdam, NY, in memory of Abbie Brown; Frances Saunders, Bethel, in memory of Wallace Saunders; Margaret M. Sawyer, Waterford, in memory of Bill Sawyer; Dorothy G. Schmidt, Augusta; Stephen Trem Seames, Portland, in memory of Agnes Howe Haines; Kirk Siegel, Bethel; Charles Seashore, Columbia, MD, in memory of Bruce Bailey; Irene Mae Sessions & Ethel Chapman, West Bethel, in memory of Stella Bryant Smith; Ruth Silver,

Bethel; Roy S. & Sharon E. Silver, Bryant Pond, in memory of Carrie B. Grover; Roxanne T. Sly, Brooklin; Eugenia M. (Farwell) Spalding, Tewksbury, MA, in memory of Grace Farwell Buck; John P. Stanley, Higganum, CT, in memory of Edward R. Stanley; Clyde A. & Bertha Stevens, Bethel; Charles R. & Bernice L. Stevens, Gray; Randal & Sarah Stevens, Bethel, in memory of Annie Olson & Richard Stevens; Joanne Peabody Stewart, Kalamazoo, MI, in memory of Emeline Heath; Marion Cole Stock, Ramona, CA, in memory of Laurenson Cole; Harriet Stowell, West Bethel, in memory of George P. Stowell, Jr.; Dexter & Janet Stowell, Bethel, in memory of Bruce Bailey; Michael S. Stowell, Lovettsville, VA, in honor of Herb & Ruth Kittredge; Clara H. Thurston, North Fryeburg; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Bethel, in memory of Ashby Tibbetts & Agnes Haines; Mary Heath Tully, Beverly, MA, in memory of Agnes Haines; Frances A. Usenik, Washington, DC, in memory of Matthew Usenik; Edmond J. & Sudie L. Vachon, Bethel; Mary E. Valentine, Bethel; Frank & Janet Vogt, Bethel; Elizabeth Whiteman, Willow Grove, PA, in honor of Norris & Barbara Brown; Paula M. Wight, Cumberland; Willard & Sylvia Wight, Newry; Martha B. VonZintl, Bethel, in memory of William R. VonZintl; Margaret S. Ward, King of Prussia, PA, in memory of Grace Farwell Buck; Les Whall, Salt Lake City, Utah, in memory of Marzee Whall; Nancy Whittier, Falmouth; Joan Trapp Wiese Bethel; Owen & Sue Wight, Newry; Ruth W. Wight, Bethel; Priscilla C. Wiley, Katonah, NY, in memory of Ruth Carver Ames; William W. & Jacqueline Wilkins, Longwood, FL, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Virginia Williamson, Upton, in memory of Esther Williamson; D. A. Wilson, Bethel; Robert O. & Lucia V. Wilson, Jorham, NH, in memory of Thelma VanDenKerckhoven; Elizabeth C. Woronzoff, Bethel; Edna M. York, Bethel, in memory of Robert S. York; Raymond & Evelyn York, Fayetteville, NC, in honor of Edna York; Robert & Jeanette York, Orrs Island; Archie & Jane Young, Bethel, in memory of Archie, Sr. & Ruth Young; Donald & Constance Vautour, West Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Douglas & Robin Zinchuk, Bethel.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Robert O. & Lucia V. Wilson, Shelburne, NH
John & Julia Fox, Andover, ME

EDITOR'S CORNER

Several members have brought to my attention that nowhere in the COURIER do we list the organization's telephone number. In the last issue we listed the telephone number on page eight in the upper right corner for the first time. Please feel free to call us during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. If those times are not convenient, please do not hesitate to call in the evening or on weekends. I can't always promise that someone will answer, but very often someone is here and if you leave a message for me, I will see that your request is acted upon.

SRH

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As mentioned in this issue (see photo page six), the Society held one of its 1991 summer meetings in Odeon Hall at the Cole Block to celebrate the structure's 100th anniversary of construction. It has become a delightful Society custom to hold at least one of its monthly meetings at a particular historic site or in a historic building. In the past Society meetings have been held at such locations as the former Benjamin Russell, Sr. homestead, the Middle Intervale Meeting House, the West Bethel Union Church and the East Bethel Church.

In 1992, we will take another step and hold a monthly meeting outside Bethel. We hope this will be a successful new venture and make this tradition even stronger in the future.

Jane W. Hosterman

(Cole Block, continued from page 1)

Town Office is today was once the millinery store of Elberta E. Burnham; later it was the jewelry store of Edward King who was followed by Edward Lyon. In 1946, it became the home of Casco Bank and Trust Company, which acquired the Bethel National Bank holdings.

In the site of Wheeler's Insurance was formerly A.D. Davis Insurance. Prior to that, the space was occupied by Early Reai Estate. From 1891 to August 1974 this was the headquarters of the Bethel Savings Bank. Also sharing space with the Savings Bank was the Bethel National Bank, which operated here from 1905 to 1945.

Toward the rear of the Block on the first floor was the office of the BETHEL NEWS, which first appeared in 1895. It was followed in 1908 by the OXFORD COUNTY CITIZEN and after June 6, 1935 the BETHEL OXFORD COUNTY CITIZEN. Prior to use as a newspaper office and print shop, the space had been a reading room. A fire occurred here in the 1920s, which did extensive damage to this section.

Next to the CITIZEN office was the photography studio of Donald Brown who operated in this location in the early 1950s. Before this the law offices of A.E. Herrick and E.C. Park were entered on this side of the building.

On the second floor overlooking the street were the offices long used by the selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor from the 1890s until 1968. When the town manager form of government was established in 1954, his office was here as well. In the 1940s Isaac Dyer had a law office on the left side of the building on the second floor. Later this space was used for meetings of the Budget Committee and for the Republican caucus.

At the top of the stairs is the entrance to Odeon Hall, believed to have been named so by Joan Stearns Kilborn after her world tour in 1907. For generations this hall was the center of Bethel's social, political and for some religious life. With a stage, balcony and seating for 200 it was the site of Gould Academy graduations, countless dances, plays, socials, minstrel shows, concerts, lectures,

(continued on page 4)

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50
Stationery(package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 ea.

Moses Mason House Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street" 75¢
"The Family Farm" 75¢
"Made in Bethel" 75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House" \$1
"Molly Ockett" \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel) \$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$6.50

Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo) sm. \$7.50 lg. \$11.50

Placemats, 4 Season (set of four) \$7.50

Books

Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY \$5
Heywood, HISTORY OF UPTON, MAINE \$10
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY

LAKES RAILROAD \$20

BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES \$9.50

Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER \$15.95

R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK \$5

W. B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE \$19.95

M. Dibner, PORTRAIT OF PARIS HILL \$29.50

King, THE WHITE HILLS \$18

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS: PLACE & PERSPECTIVE \$9.95

Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND \$29.95

D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS \$4

Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY \$7.50

MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC \$29.95

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COOKBOOK \$5

Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE

BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW

ENGLAND Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35

Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY \$39.95

M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD \$48

R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER \$5

A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS

PORTRAITS \$25

Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES \$5

Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD \$50

R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE \$18

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890 \$45

F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS \$20

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7

Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,

Moses Mason House 10¢ ea.

Bethel Historical Society Calendar, 1992

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10%

discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.

(Cole Block, continued from page 3)

Chatauqua meetings, movies (both silent and sound), town meetings, political caucuses, and in the 1960s Roman Catholic religious services. Bethel's famed music conductor William Rogers Chapman once persuaded Metropolitan opera star Geraldine Farrar to sing in this hall. Others of national and international fame also made public appearances here as well, including Jane Addams of Hull House fame, who gave a lecture here in 1910.

For years Harvey Bragdon operated the hall as a theater for silent movies. Pianists included Doris Lord and Beryl Morgan. Bragdon later introduced the "talkies" here and projectionists included Ray Crockett, Clayton Crockett, Arthur Morgan and Fred McMillin. As a teenager Ashby Tibbetts worked for Bragdon announcing films and posting notices of forthcoming attractions.

In the early 1930s many Bethel residents watched breathlessly as a man billed as the "Human Fly" scaled the full height of the building.

In 1946, the CITIZEN reported that "Guy Crouse was found in the Selectmen's Office with a bullet in his head, apparently self-inflicted." Crouse miraculously survived and some Bethel residents wondered if the bullet had indeed been self-inflicted.

During the Bicentennial celebrations, Odeon Hall was used for the contra dance.

With all this rich history only briefly summarized here, it seems appropriate to find ways to restore the second floor to its former glory. This grand century old building looks much as it did in 1891 thanks to recent efforts by the Town of Bethel. In its second century it is essential to keep it a vital landmark for many more generations of Bethel people.

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)

by Leslie E. Davis

The Tebbets Co. operated under receivership with R.F.C. (Reconstruction Finance Corporation) financing most of the time at a loss, until they had a chance to sell what was left of their assets to their principal customer, the Ekco Co.

That year of 1933 was pretty tough for all business. Wages went down to \$1.50 to \$2 per day and in many cases men worked for less. Sawed lumber (pine) went down to \$16 to \$18 per thousand loaded on cars at Bethel and peeled pulpwood would only bring \$5.25 per cord for hardwood delivered at the Oxford Paper Co. in Rumford. The Bethel National and Savings banks were in sound condition, and reopened within the week of closing.

I kept operating most of the time, selling whatever I could at whatever price it would bring. My crew needed the work and it seemed the only thing to do.

After we finished sawing what birch we had cut, I put part of the crew on pulpwood and part of us sawed spruce dimension lumber for the Brown Co. at Berlin, NH, which we cut on their land in Grafton. I had been supplying them with pine for shipping boxes and spruce dimension for a year or two previous to that summer, but in July or August of 1933 they folded up and went into receivership.

They didn't hit me quite as hard as the Tebbets Co. did as they only owed me about \$2500 when they collapsed.

The Oxford Paper Co. at Rumford was still paying its bills so we trucked in two or three hundred cords of pulpwood that the men peeled for me.

We paid \$1.75 per cord for peeling, sawing and piling, \$1 per cord to get it hauled out of the woods and it cost about \$2 per cord to truck it and we got \$5.25 per cord for it delivered so that left me 50¢ per cord for stumpage and financing, but we managed to live.

A dollar would buy a lot of groceries that year.

During that year I bought the balance of what land Rufus Virgin heirs owned in Bethel. Some over 600 acres of land were acquired for \$7250, which proved to be a mighty good trade for me.

I had to have a lot of help from the bank and I have always appreciated the faith that Ellery Park, Fred Merrill, and Fred Bean seemed to have that I would pay what I borrowed.

I suspect that my wife's signature on my notes to the bank helped also.

I had managed to get the home place where we lived paid for and transferred it to her.

The year 1934 was a little better. Peeled hardwood pulp went up to \$7 per cord delivered to either Rumford or Berlin, but the Oxford Paper Co. wouldn't buy only a limited amount, and since the Brown Co. had reorganized and gotten refinanced by the R.F.C. and were paying cash I sold 500 cords of peeled hardwood to be delivered at Berlin, NH. There were plenty of men available and we got the full amount peeled between May 20th and July 25th, which is about the length of the sap peeling season.

I believe we paid \$2.25 per cord for stumpage and financing. Most of this wood was on the Rabbitt Road lots.

I had better suspend talking about our business affairs for awhile and bring our family doings up to date.

During the years 1930 and 1934, all three children were of course going to school. Richard started going to Gould's Academy in the fall of 1930 and graduated in the spring of 1934. Transportation was something of a problem until he reached the age of 15 in the spring of 1931. He walked or rode his bicycle or rode with the Stanley boys, Don and Fred, but on his 15th birthday I gave him his driver's license and we found an old Chevrolet roadster for \$35 which he used for awhile. It wasn't in very good shape and during that same year we traded it for a 1930 Model A Ford roadster which he kept for quite awhile. During his years at the Academy he was a medium ability athlete, played basketball on the J.V. team and football on the Varsity. I think his football ability was better than average. Gould's had some excellent football teams in those years. His popularity with girls was at least average I would say, as he usually had at least one nice looking one that he went around with. Phyllis started in at the Academy in 1932 and graduated in 1936, but she took an extra year to study some extra subjects which she wanted before going into training at the Deaconess Hospital Nursing School. Kathryn, being about five years younger, actually 4 1/2 years,

didn't start the Academy until the others had graduated, although her first year was during Phyl's post-graduated year. Kathryn graduated in 1940. I think that our children's school years were perhaps the happiest of our family as a group, if I were to try to pick out any particular period in our family life.

(to be continued in the next issue)



Randall H. Bennett unloads the first box of his book BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY from the Coles Express truck which delivered 1,082 copies early in December.

1992 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

January 2, Annual "So You Think You Know Bethel" Contest; February 6, Annual Historical Film Festival; March 5, History of Skiing in the Bethel Area; April 2, "The Witches of Salem," Ernest Cassara, Ph.D.; May 7, Bethel Historical Pageant by Crescent Park Fifth Graders (Telstar Regional High School's Helen Berry Auditorium); June 4, "New England: Image and Icon," Stanley R. Howe, Director, Bethel Historical Society; July 2, Annual Picnic, South Bridgton, Tour of Naramissic; August 6, "History of Maine Made Automobiles" by Richard Fraser; September 3, 27th Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Supper, "Prehistory of the Androscoggin River," Nathan Hamilton, Ph.D., University of Southern Maine; October 1, Annual "What's It" and Collectibles Night, "History of the Methodist Church, 1892-1992"; November 5, Highlights of Grover Hill's Past, Mary C. Keniston; December 3, Annual "Christmas with the Masons."

All meetings unless otherwise specified are held at the Society's Broad Street headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House, beginning at 7:30 P.M. except the May meeting will begin at 7 P.M. The annual picnic will begin at 6 P.M. and the pot luck supper will commence at 6:30 P.M.



Members of the Bethel Historical Society gather for the August meeting of the Society, which honored the centenary of the construction of the Cole Block. Society Director Stanley R. Howe described the history of this famous Bethel landmark at this meeting held on the second floor of the Cole Block in historic Odeon Hall. Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

MINIATURES SHOW IN PORTLAND

The Maine Historical Society will sponsor a show of miniatures, dolls and trains Saturday, June 20, and Sunday, June 21, at Portland High School.

The show, called "Small Wonders," will be open from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. both days, and will include exhibits, demonstrations, lectures and sales displays. The cost of admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and historical society members, and \$1 for children under 12.

A preview party will be held Friday, June 19, from 4 to 7 P.M. at Maine Bank & Trust Company at 467 Congress St. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes drinks, hors d'oeuvres and admission to the show throughout the weekend.

Among the lecturers scheduled to participate is Harry Smith, an author, artist and world-class miniaturist who lives in Camden.

"Small Wonders" will feature miniature replicas of houses, rooms, furniture and boats, as well as displays of antique dolls and model trains. The exhibits will come from museums, historical societies and private collections throughout the state.

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are invited to attend the show at the special \$3 admission charge. For more information, contact Didi Stockly at 781-4254 or Martha McEvoy at 773-4738.



A reception honoring the publication of Randall H. Bennett's *BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY* was held on December 7, 1991 in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House. In the photo above, president Jane Hosterman looks on while author Bennett (seated) autographs a copy of his book for Constance Vautour (right). Also in the photograph are Roger and Rachel Godbout representing Smith and Town Printers of Berlin, NH, which printed the book.



Summer volunteers were honored this fall at a traditional New England boiled dinner in the Dr. Moses Mason House meeting room. Honored were those who helped in the museum and/or worked in the gardens. Museum committee chair Judy Haskell thanked all those who made the summer season such a success. She was seconded by Society Director Stanley R. Howe.

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRY

Information on the Brann-Brawn family is requested by James Richard Brann, 3575 Hilyard #7, Eugene, Oregon 97405, telephone (503) 342-2762.



Emily C. Saunders

MEMBER PROFILE

Emily C. Saunders was born at Stoughton, MA on September 6, 1912, the daughter of Joseph and Emily Potsus Clement. She was educated in the Mexico, ME schools and attended Bliss College. She married Addison Saunders and they had five children.

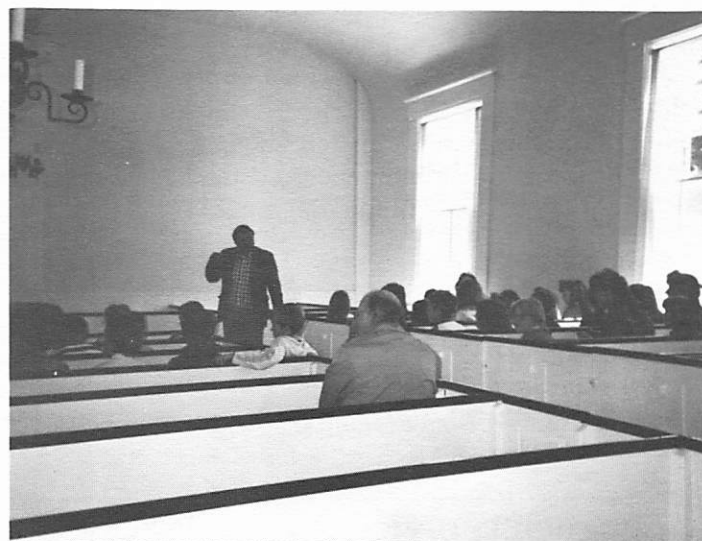
Mrs. Saunders was a member of the West Parish Congregational Church and served as president for a number of

years of its Women's Fellowship. A founder of the Bethel Senior Citizen organization, she also was a life member of the Bethel Historical Society.

She served one term as a state representative (1975-77), serving on the Health and Human Services Committee. She traveled extensively, visiting among other nations Canada, Mexico, France, Italy, and Russia. Her interests also included amateur landscape painting, classical piano, and reading.

Mrs. Saunders died on December 19, 1991. At the time of her death, she had 14 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Always a loyal volunteer for the Society, she also served several summers as a guide in the museum.



Society Director Stanley R. Howe described services in an early 19th century meeting house during the early years of the Middle Intervale Meeting House (built 1816) to a group of fifth graders during the fall of 1991. This presentation was one of several provided by the Society each month on local history for Crescent Park School's fifth grade.

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly publication |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

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..... Sustaining (Individual) \$5

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..... Life over 55 years \$50 single

..... Life over 55 years \$75 couple

..... Life under 55 years \$100 single

..... Life under 55 years \$150 couple

..... Individual preference (any amount over \$5)

..... Corporate \$50

BOOK NOTE

Those with an interest in the history of the Abenaki Indians of the Bethel area now have available to them a collection of important contemporary documents in the book *Dawnland Encounters: Indians and Europeans in Northern New England*. Published in 1991 by the University Press of New England and compiled by Colin G. Calloway, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Wyoming, the 300 page volume is a follow-up to Calloway's earlier work *The Western Abenakis of Vermont, 1600-1800: War, Migration, and the Survival of an Indian People* (published in 1990 and reviewed in the *Bethel Courier*, Vol. XIV, No. 3, Fall 1990). Calloway's anthology begins by providing a comprehensive and highly readable introduction to the subject of Indian and European encounters in northern New England and then offers a wide range of primary sources, including narratives, letters, account books, treaties, and council proceedings. These are arranged topically and are accompanied by explanatory and interpretive comments. Together with period illustrations, the documents testify to the richness and variety of inter-ethnic relations in northern New England. They also show that while conflict certainly occurred, the encounters were also marked by cooperation and accommodation.

RHB

IN MEMORIAM

Died, December 12, 1991, Margaret Hanscom Humphrey, Life Member

Died, December 19, 1991, Emily Clement Saunders, Life Member

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Swift Block, containing Goodwin R. Wiley's drug store, and former Tibbetts house, upper Main Street, Bethel Hill circa 1875. Courtesy of Allan Fraser.

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